

ICAR-CIFA and KVK, Khordha adopted Progressive Fish Farmer from Odisha named for 'Padma Shri' Award

Mr. Batakrushna Sahoo, a progressive fish farmer from Odisha has been named for the Padma Shri award on the eve of Republic Day 2020. Mr Sahu hails from Sarakana village, Baliana block of Khordha district, Odisha. He ventured into aquaculture during late eighties as a growout culture farmer, slowly he expanded his enterprise into fish breeding and seed production with the technical guidance of ICAR-CIFA and KVK-Khordha. Presently he is undertaking the aquaculture operations in about 10 acres' area. He is an innovative aquafarmer who adopts and experiments new methods in aquaculture. Many of the technologies developed in ICAR-CIFA were tested and refined in his farm. He adopted scientific technology packages for carp breeding, seed production, brood rearing and grow out culture. He is also one of the pioneer farmer to achieve early breeding in Odisha by using CIFABROOD™, a special broodstock feed developed by ICAR-CIFA for carps. Recognising his entrepreneurial spirit, ICAR-CIFA established an Aquaculture Field School (AFS) in 2009 in his farm for facilitating farmer to farmer technology dissemination. It has given him a platform to train and share his aquafarming experience to thousands of aquafarmers across Odisha and different states.

He was nominated by KVK-Khordha which under the administrative control of ICAR-CIFA for the Padma awards for the year 2020 and he was conferred the fourth highest civilian award in the country for his contribution in the field of Animal Husbandry. A felicitation programme was organised by KVK, Khordha on 27 January, 2020. He was felicitated by Dr. B. R. Pillai, Director, ICAR-CIFA and Dr. P.N. Ananth, Head, KVK. On his maiden speech, Mr. Sahoo expressed his gratitude to many dedicated scientists of ICAR-CIFA & KVK, especially Dr. Radheshyam, Dr B. K. Sharma, Dr. B. B. Satpathy and Dr. S. Sarkar for their support in the early phase of his farm development. He said, "The award is the result of nearly 35 years of dedication to farming. I have extended help to many fellow farmers who have shown interest in this and have not charged any fee". He also called on the aquafarmers to adopt scientific technologies to improve the fish production of the state and the country.

